

CORRESPONDENCE.

Although the snow still heavily shrouds the earth, and the air is frosty, the stern, cold sway of winter must soon be ended, and naturalists will again go forth into the fields and forests. Before entering, however, on the coming campaign, I would like to record for my fellow collectors a few facts culled from my copious notes of the past one. The spring of 1882 was very backward, so that insects were unusually scarce during April and May. On the other hand, the autumn was prolonged and fine, and many species could be collected up to the end of October. On April 25th, I carefully searched the pines for Buprestidæ (which at the same date in 1881 were abundant), but could not find a single specimen. On May 11th, a second investigation resulted in the finding of only two specimens of *Chalcophora liberta*, Germ. On June 6th, this species was abundant, and several specimens of *C. virginiensis*, Dr., and *Chrysobothris Harrisii*, Hentz, were also taken. *C. virginiensis*, Dr., *C. liberta*, Germ., and *C. fortis*, Lec., were taken again on several days between September 24th and October 16th. On April 30th, Tiger Beetles were making their appearance, and some specimens of *C. vulgaris*, Say, were taken just emerging from their winter quarters in the sand, under stones and chips. *C. sex-guttata*, Fab., as is well known, frequents paths and clearings in woods. On wet or dull days it may often be found sheltered under the loose bark of fallen trees, or in the deserted burrows of borers, down which it retreats when disturbed. While stripping the bark from a large prostrate maple on May 22nd, to obtain larvæ, I captured three of these beautiful beetles, which had thus been driven to shelter by a shower. The tree yielded numerous specimens of *Eupsalis minuta*, Drury, and some pupæ of *Saperda tridentata*, Oliv., from which imagos emerged on June 15th. On June 16th, while beating the branches of a butternut, I found upon my net a Curculio (blackish with an oblique white dash on each elytron), which was new to me, but could find no more upon the tree. As I was leaving the field in which it stood to enter an adjoining wood, I saw upon the gate-post a similar weevil, and a glance around showed me a large butternut growing but a short distance away, and having a large dead limb resting on the fence. I at once concluded that the weevils had come from this, and, on examining the decaying limb, hundreds of the beetles were found upon it. On a length of only five or six feet I took fifty, nearly all of which were paired and copulating. The beetle proves to be *Pseudomus truncatus*, Lec. On the 21st I took two specimens of *Cepha-*

loon lepturoides, Newm., as well as several of *Dendroides concolor*, Newm., and other fine species. Among the beetles mentioned by Dr. Le Conte as bred from hickory twigs, is *Chariessa pilosa*, Forst. During the latter part of June and the following month numerous specimens of this handsome beetle were observed upon felled and old hickories. They were very active,—coursing about in search of prey, and doubtless destroying many insect enemies of this tree. One was seen devouring an *Agrilus egenus*. Gory, and a second feasting on *Magdalis barbata*, Say, both injurious and abundant species. The delicate and rare Buprestis, *Pucilonota cyanipes*, Say, was captured on June 22nd, upon a dead willow, which I hope may yield me more during the coming season. On the same day a very fine female *Bellamira scalaris*, Say, was taken ovipositing on an old maple stump. Beating low bushes on the margins of a small lake yielded numerous species, including *Cupes concolor*, Westw., the only specimen of this family which I have yet taken. During September the Locust-borer, *Cyllene robiniae*, Forst., was very abundant in all parts of the city. Although I had never previously captured the beetle, I knew from the decayed condition of our locust trees (which are not numerous), that it must infest them. In the latter part of the month, *Ecanthus niveus* was, as is usual, in large numbers on raspberries, and in full song, if we can so designate its musical performance. An interesting feature of its concerts is one of which I have not been able to find any mention in books accessible. While the male is energetically shuffling together its wings, raised almost vertically, the female may be seen standing just behind it, and with her head applied to the base of the wings, evidently eager to get the full benefit of every note produced. On October 7th, I discovered in the seeds of the basswood some lepidopterous larvæ of which I would be glad to hear from members studying lepidoptera, as I can find no mention of any moth attacking the fruit of this tree. Do the larvæ leave the seeds, and, as they have the power to do, lower themselves to the ground, or do they remain until the seeds fall from the tree? The seeds are completely eaten out, and I noticed in a double-seeded fruit that after finishing one seed, the larva proceeded to the other.

Ottawa, 30th March, 1883.

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P. S.—I would like to obtain, by exchange or purchase, a copy of the First Report of the Society, to complete my set of its publications.